



ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY AND CREATING MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Millions of families are struggling to put food on the table as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has created unprecedented levels of food insecurity in Washington State.



THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE RELYING ON FOOD ASSISTANCE HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PANDEMIC TO MORE THAN

2.2 MILLION PEOPLE

Source: Washington State Department of Agriculture

30%
OF HOUSEHOLDS
ARE FOOD INSECURE

Source: University of Washington, 2020 Washington State Food Security Survey

PERSONS OF COLOR ARE

1.5X MORE LIKELY

TO BE FOOD INSECURE THAN WHITE PEOPLE

Source: University of Washington, 2020 Washington State Food Security Survey

At the same time, the economic downturn and interruptions to postsecondary education and the workforce resulting from the pandemic have left many young people in need of meaningful opportunities in the coming year:

UP TO **40%** OF INCOMING FRESHMEN ARE UNLIKELY TO ATTEND COLLEGE THIS FALL

Source: SimpsonScarborough

NATIONALLY, THE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS

18.5%
IN JULY 2020

WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY TWICE AS HIGH AS THE YEAR PRIOR

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN THE GREATER SEATTLE AREA NEARLY TRIPLED

FROM **6.6%** TO **18.3%**
BEFORE COVID-19 THIS SUMMER

Source: Mathematica

SERVICE HAS THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOTH CHALLENGES

The Schultz Family Foundation has partnered with Serve Washington to develop the WA COVID Response Corps, a first-of-its-kind program created in response to the pandemic combining resources from federal and state government with private philanthropy.

- The program is designed to increase the capacity of local non-profits working to address the food insecurity crisis, while also creating service opportunities for young people from diverse ethnic and financial backgrounds.
- The youth service corps will deploy 100 AmeriCorps members between the ages of 17-25 during the 2020-21 academic year to assist community non-profits focused on alleviating food insecurity in Washington State.
- By supporting food packing and distribution at food banks, managing and serving in meal distribution sites at schools, providing food access to college students and veterans, and growing and gleaning fresh fruits and vegetables in community gardens for food banks, Response Corps members will help keep our most vulnerable neighbors fed and healthy during these difficult times.



PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

are actively recruiting and will select members by October 15, 2020

WASHINGTON SERVICE CORPS, EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT - STATEWIDE

Response Corps members will perform services such as delivering food and meals to people in their homes, distributing food to customers at the food pantry, distributing food in backpacks to people experiencing housing instability, repacking bulk food into family portions, picking up food from local grocers, farms, gardens, and orchards, recruiting and managing volunteers, and managing customer traffic flow.

LISC AMERICORPS PROGRAM, LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT CORPORATION - KING, PIERCE & YAKIMA COUNTY

Response Corps members will work directly with vulnerable community members by supplying meals to housing insecure individuals and families, securing and managing food donations, providing food safety training to recruited and managed volunteers, developing pipelines for sustainable food resourcing, assembling meals and supporting direct service partnerships with other meal providers, working with Black, Indigenous, and people of color farmers on farm-to-table resources, and/or assisting with youth nutritional health-checks.

COMMON THREADS, COMMON THREADS FARM - WHATCOM COUNTY

Response Corps members will serve with existing community partners in Bellingham, spanning urban and rural settings. Host sites include school gardens, food banks, and affordable housing complexes, many of which house a diverse demographic—from migrant farmworker families to single-parent households.

COWLITZ AMERICORPS NETWORK, LIFE WORKS - COWLITZ COUNTY

Response Corps members will assist with repacking and distributing food, ordering, receiving, sorting, and assisting with monthly reporting to food rescue agency partners.

ABOUT US



The **Schultz Family Foundation**, established in 1996 by Howard and Sheri Schultz, creates pathways of opportunity for populations facing barriers to success, including youth and post-9/11 veterans. The Foundation invests in innovative solutions and partnerships that unlock people's potential, and strengthen our businesses, our communities, and our nation. For more information about the Foundation and its work: schultzfamilyfoundation.org.



Serve Washington, a State Commission, advances national service, volunteerism and civic engagement to improve lives; expands opportunity to meet the local critical needs of residents of Washington; and strengthens community capacity while creating healthy and resilient communities. Authorized by Executive Order #16-08, a 20-member board of Governor-appointed commissioners supports and advises Serve Washington. Learn more at servewashington.wa.gov.



This **AmeriCorps** funding is provided by the **Corporation for National and Community Service**, the federal agency for volunteering, civic engagement, and national service programs. For over 25 years, more than 1 million dedicated Americans have joined AmeriCorps and pledged to 'get things done.' This year, the 75,000 AmeriCorps members serving in schools, nonprofits, community and faith-based organizations, will do the same as they rebuild communities, support veterans, fight the opioid epidemic, prepare students for success, foster economic opportunity, and more. Those interested in serving can learn more at AmeriCorps.gov/Join.

LEARN MORE AT COVIDRESPONSECORPS.ORG